

GRANTS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Tuesday 2 November 2010

at 2.00 pm

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: GRANTS COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Payne and H Thompson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2010

4. KEY DECISIONS

No items

5. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

5.1 Community Safety Capital Grants Allocations – *Assistant Director
(Community Safety and Protection)*

5.2 Community Pool 2010/2011 – Round 4 – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

22 September 2010

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Hilary Thompson (in the Chair)
The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Officers: Alison Mawson, Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)
Susan Rybak, Community and Youth Resource Manager
Pat Wormald, Senior Clerical Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

12 Consideration of Grant Award to Hartlepool Sports Council from Community Pool *(Community Youth and Resource Manager)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise and seek approval for the 'top slicing' of £2,500 from the Community Pool to support Hartlepool Sports Council's sports grants process. The report provides details of the current grants scheme and made recommendations for changes to this should the Grants Committee approve an award.

Issues for consideration by the Committee

Hartlepool Sports Council is a forum for all sports within Hartlepool and its outlying villages, committed to raise the profile of sport within the town. It operates and distributes grants and holds annual sports awards ceremonies. 13 sports clubs out of a possible 60 (excluding football) are affiliated to it, paying annual fees of £10 per club. As a voluntary organisation it relies on sponsorship and funding for its continued existence. Such funding can often be difficult to secure and the sustainability of the group was now at risk. Officers from Sport and Recreation had been providing advice to the Sports Council's committee however it was felt that an injection of grant support was needed specifically to support the sports grant process.

A £2,500 top slicing of grant from the Community Pool was therefore being recommended. This amount would be awarded year on year from the Community Pool to enable their grants scheme to become more sustainable. However it was highlighted that this would not be a substitute for sourcing of additional external sponsorship monies. It was felt that a revamp of the Sports Council's current grant criteria would strengthen their ability to raise additional sponsorship. A revised criteria had been formulated by officers working in conjunction with the Sports Council. Both the previous and proposed criteria were appended to the report for members information.

It was also suggested that the Sports Council annual awards event be revised and expanded. Details of the selection criteria and the proposed new nomination form were appended.

The Mayor was pleased that there would be grants for individuals but had concerns that the criteria stated that the applicant must be part of a sports club affiliated to the Hartlepool Sports Council which may preclude applicants from certain sports. It was suggested that this be taken into consideration. Members asked that the grants awarded by the Sports Council be evaluated to measure their impact and that the grant from the Community Pool to the Sports Council be reviewed annually.

Decision

Members:-

- approved a grant from the Community Pool of £2,500 to the Hartlepool Sports Council to enable the group to allocate individual sports grants.
- approved the proposed draft grant application criteria attached at Appendix 2 of the report
- approved the proposed draft sports categories criteria attached at Appendix 3 of the report
- approved the proposed draft sports awards nomination form attached at Appendix 4

13 Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Payne.

14 Declarations of interest by members

The Mayor declared a prejudicial interest in item 4.2 of Agenda item 5.1 (Dalton Street Car Park).

15 Receipt of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2010

These were received by Members.

16 Community Safety Capital Grants Allocation *(Assistant Director – Community Safety and Protection)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek consideration/approval for recommended grant awards.

Issues for consideration by the Committee

The Community Safety Capital Grant Fund in total for 2010/11 was £150,000. However in December 2008 Cabinet had allocated £50,000 from the Community Safety Capital budget to provide an investment scheme for CCTV cameras and equipment during 2009/10 to 2011/12. Consequently the net fund remaining was £100,000. Grants awards totalling £12,310 had been approved previously. Two applications had been received.

- Hartlepool Business Security Fund – a contribution of £25,000 toward grant assistance to business sectors undertaking appropriate security work to the premises. Total cost of £38,500 with the remainder to be covered by the businesses themselves
- Dalton Street Car Park CCTV – a contribution of £6,760 toward the installation of 4 static CCTV cameras and live transmission of images via an existing camera to the CCTV Monitoring Centre. Total cost of £10,400 with the remainder to be covered by New Deal for Communities. Future revenue costs, including response monitoring, to be met by Hartlepool Revival.

Decision

Members:-

- Approved the application from Hartlepool Business Security Fund
- Deferred the application in relation to Dalton Street Car Park CCTV

17 Civic Lottery Fund Grant Applications 2010/2011 *(Community and Youth Resource Manager)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise and seek approval for the second round of Civic Lottery Fund Grant applications in the 2010/2011 financial year.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

Members were advised that 2010/2011 balance available for distribution at the beginning of the financial year was £12,200. At a previous meeting Members had agreed to allocate £1,500 for Senior Citizens' summer outings and Christmas parties, leaving £10,700 remaining for the year. It was also agreed at previous meeting that any funding should be distributed in three tranches. Therefore the total available for distribution in Round 2 was £3,580. The total sum sought in Round 2 was £17,950.

The following applications were considered from groups who had not been funded previously:

- Hartlepool Wadokai – requested £2,000 toward running costs, transport and hosting of a world class seminar in November 2010
- Greatham Sports Field – requested £500 to promote and develop new tennis court with coaching sessions
- Seaton Carew Ladies Bowling Club – requested funding of any amount up to £805 toward consortium fees and chairs
- Hartlepool Table Tennis Club – requested £750 toward running costs and basic equipment
- People into Action – Requested £2,000 to fund a trip to Flamingo Land
- Seaton Carew Girls F.C. – requested £300 for running costs
- St Pauls Girls Friendly Society – requested funding of any amount up to £600 for running costs

The following applications were considered from groups who had been supported previously from the Civic Lottery.

- Preston Simpson Scholarship – requested funding of £2,000 to provide assistance to local musicians
- Hartlepool Mail Voice Choir – requested £1,000 toward assistance with Borough Hall hire
- Hartlepool District Hospice – requested £2,000 for the provision of therapy sessions

- Hartlepool Stage Society – requested £2,000 toward assistance with stage production
- Hartlepool Sea Cadets – requested £2,000 toward decoration of a building for the Tall Ships event
- Hartlepool Headland Amateur Boxing Club – requested £2,000 toward costs for an amateur boxing tournament in November
- Seaton Carew Juniors F.C. – requested £600 toward running costs, coaching fees and football strip
- Hartlepool Church and District League – requested £800 toward trophies

The Mayor asked whether there had been any progress on writing to the government asking for the release of civic lottery funds and the Community and Youth Resource Manager agreed to investigate this further.

Decision

Members approved the following grants:-

- Preston Simpson Scholarship - £250 to assist musicians
- Hartlepool Wadokai - £400 to host a weekend course
- Hartlepool Male Voice Choir - £250 towards hire of hall
- Greatham Sports Field - £150 towards coaching fees
- Hartlepool District Hospice - £400 towards therapy sessions
- Seaton Carew Ladies Bowling Club - £300 towards consortium costs
- Hartlepool Table Tennis Club - £300 towards league fees
- Seaton Carew Girls FC - £300 towards league fees
- Hartlepool Headland Boxing Club - £350 for purchase of trophies
- St Pauls Girls Friendly Society - £300 towards rent
- Seaton Carew Juniors FC - £300 towards league fees
- Hartlepool Church and District league - £250 for purchase of trophies

Members rejected the following grants:-

- Hartlepool Stage Society
- Hartlepool Sea Cadets

The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 27.09.10

GRANTS COMMITTEE**2 November 2010**

Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY CAPITAL GRANTS
ALLOCATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek consideration/approval for recommended grant awards.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Proposed awards for consideration from the Community Safety Capital Fund are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
Dalton Street Car Park CCTV	£ 6,760
Lucan Street Alleygate Scheme	£ 8,000
Summerhill Allotments Security Fencing	£16,900

3. RELEVANCE TO THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

Grants Committee has responsibility for determining the levels of grant awarded.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Grants Committee on 2nd November 2010.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members of the Grants Committee are requested to consider/approve grant awards to three projects totalling £31,660.

Report of: Assistant Director (Community Safety and Protection)

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY CAPITAL GRANTS
ALLOCATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of applications to the Community Safety Capital Fund and seek consideration/approval for recommended grant awards.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has decided that its capital budget for 2010/11 would include an allocation of £150,000 to implement community safety projects, which are associated with and contribute to Safer Hartlepool Partnership's strategy covering crime, disorder and substance misuse.
- 2.2 However at Cabinet meeting of 15th December 2008, a decision that the allocation of £50,000 from the annual Community Safety Capital budget to provide an investment scheme for CCTV cameras and equipment during 2009/10 to 2011/2012 was approved.
- 2.3 Consequently the net Community Safety Capital Fund allocation for 2010/11 will be £100,000.
- 2.4 The Safer Hartlepool strategy covers a 3 year period, with annual priorities agreed. Those annual priorities for the year 2010/11 are:
- Drug dealing and supply
 - Violent crime, including domestic abuse
 - Acquisitive crime
 - Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting
 - Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
 - Delivery of the alcohol harm reduction strategy 2006-2009 including the introduction of an effective local alcohol treatment service
 - Reassurance and Community engagement.
- 2.5 The Community Services and Safety Board, at its meeting in August 2000, approved criteria against which to judge a project's proposals as follows:

1. Clearly identifying the link to Action Plans for each relevant objective
2. Outline the problem and proposals to remedy it
3. Identify the cost and contribution from the Department budget
4. Include an approximate timescale for implementation
5. Include further information which is appropriate for officers/members to know about.

- 2.6 For the 2010/11 capital allocations, matched funding of 35% minimum is requested.
- 2.7 All projects are considered first by the Section 17 Officer Group which comprises senior officer representatives from all Council Departments. Applications are also considered by The Council's Regeneration & Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team for comment as to how they fit into current financial priorities.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The net Community Safety Capital Grant Fund for 2010/11 has been amended to £100,000. Grants totalling £37,310 have been awarded during the current year. Recommended grant awards for consideration at this Grants Committee are £31,660, which will leave a residual balance £31,030 available for applications during the year.

4. APPLICATIONS

4.1 Dalton Street Car Park CCTV.

- 4.1.1 A number of residential properties to the east end of Dalton Street, off York Road and to the rear of Titan House, were acquired and demolished approx. 2 years ago, under a redevelopment scheme. Ownership of the land is vested with Hartlepool Revival Limited, a subsidiary of the New Deal for Communities Trust (NDC Trust).

NDC Trust is a resident-led charity established to support community-led regeneration in central Hartlepool and carry forward the key initiatives from the New Deal for Communities programme after it is wound up in 2011.

- 4.1.2 A fully fenced 49 bay open car park has been established on most of the acquired Dalton Street land, for use by long stay permit holders. There is no public access to the car park unless by permit. Fencing is low level, to avoid being over-intrusive to the area, and access/egress is managed by controlled barriers. Street lighting, affording site illumination, is installed.
- 4.1.3 The car park is managed, including occasional patrol, by Hartlepool Borough Council. However all operational and maintenance/repair costs are the responsibility of Hartlepool Revival.

- 4.1.4 Details of the annual fee, per space, proposed to be levied to permit holders are still to be confirmed. These fees will be received and retained by Hartlepool Revival. With all parking spaces allocated, and further demand evident, Hartlepool Revival are considering plans to increase capacity by conversion of adjacent waste land.
- 4.1.5 Whilst only recently operational, and not subject to any crime and/or anti-social behaviour, the Trust has reviewed overall site security. Permit holders do have expectations as to security and safety, especially during hours of darkness. In addition there have been concerns that the car park could, overnight, be vulnerable to crime and anti-social behaviour related to night time economy movement. The car park is, however, too new to be able to reflect any meaningful analysis of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents.
- 4.1.6 NDC Trust has proposed the installation of CCTV cameras to monitor the car park. 4 static cameras would ensure all areas of the car park are fully covered. The initial proposal was that camera images would be recorded and recovered, for any incident investigation, on site. No live monitoring was proposed. However, for minimal additional cost, it is possible for those images to be transmitted, via an existing HBC Community Safety camera located in Roker Street car park, to the CCTV Monitoring Centre. Whilst NDC Trust is not proposing to commission open live monitoring, the link would provide an option of live monitoring upon notification of any ongoing incident or in response to intelligence or information received. It would also make recorded image review and recovery more manageable.
- 4.1.7 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives within the grants scheme:
- Acquisitive crime
 - Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour including deliberate fire setting
 - Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
 - Reassurance and Community engagement.
- In addition the cameras could afford support were there any crimes connected to night time economy or drug dealing and supply, which can occur in less visible town centre locations.
- 4.1.8 The proposal will require planning approval. The One Stop Shop has considered the proposal and indicated it would appear to be acceptable in principle. However the development will need to include landscaping/tree planting in which respect details have yet to be finalised.
- 4.1.9 The proposed CCTV operation will require the system to be notified to the Information Commissioners Office for Data Protection compliance. It is proposed that HBC Community Safety Officer (CCTV) affords guidance in this registration and subsequent operation.

4.1.10 Financial Implications

Installation including planning consent	£10,400
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N.D.C. Environment Security/TargetHardening	£ 3,640 (agreed)
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Grant requested	£ 6,760
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The grant request fulfils the 35% contribution criteria.

All future revenue costs, including response monitoring, will be met by Hartlepool Revival.

4.1.11 Recommendation

Members are asked to consider a grant of £6,760 towards this project.

The application does not have the full support of the Section 17 Officer Group. It is felt that this project does not afford full benefit to the community in that the car park will be of restricted access. Nevertheless it is acknowledged that potential users would probably include local businesses who do afford overall economic benefit to the community. Furthermore all permit income will be received by New Deal for Communities Trust/Hartlepool Revival who, it is considered, should meet all or the majority of the capital installation cost offset against the annual income stream.

The application does not, similarly, have the full support of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team given ownership of the car park and income destination aspects.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

4.2 Lucan Street Alleygate Scheme

4.2.1. Hartlepool's night time economy is recognised as a significant contributor within Hartlepool's overall violent crime statistics. Longer pub and club opening hours and an availability of cheap alcohol alongside a binge drinking culture, have all increased the potential of violent and general alcohol related crime.

4.2.2 The Night Time Economy (NTE) Group is a multi-agency group drawing together Hartlepool Borough Council, Police and other crime prevention bodies. One of the Group's primary objectives is to reduce alcohol related violent crime, and underlying anti-social behaviour, especially in the town centre which is the predominant area of concern.

4.2.3 The night time drinking establishments within Hartlepool town centre are generally clustered within a few locations. One of those locations is Lucan Street which has 3 late night licensed premises which sit alongside several further licensed premises and hot food takeaway outlets, trading through

early hours of the morning, in nearby Victoria Road, Avenue Road and York Road.

- 4.2.4 Leading off the west end of Lucan Street, adjacent to York Road, are two alleyways, one leading through to Victoria Road and the other to Middleton Lane. Both are relatively narrow, have high walls to both sides, and are poorly lit. The NTE Group have highlighted significant concerns in respect of levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in both.

Statistics evidence a number of serious assaults, some of a sexual nature, drugs related incidents and numerous anti-social behaviour reports including noisy and rowdy behaviour and urination in public. It is suspected a number of incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour are not reported.

- 4.2.5 The NTE Group have proposed the installation of alleygates, which would be locked overnight, at both ends of each alleyway. By preventing access to the alleyways, and also directing night time economy users away from these alleys on to well lit and safer routes as they circulate around the town centre, it is hoped to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour levels and increase user confidence in this area.
- 4.2.6 Alleygates have been installed in a number of locations throughout Hartlepool and have proven effective in controlling and managing areas which were previously subject to crime, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
- 4.2.7 HBC Community Safety CCTV cameras monitor night time activity in Lucan Street as well as adjacent Victoria Road and York Road. Whilst maintaining general safety and security within these main streets, it is recognised that these alleyways are recurring hot-spots for unacceptable behaviour and activity which would be more effectively controlled through access control as opposed to additional cameras.
- 4.2.8 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives within the grants scheme:
- Violent crime
 - Drug dealing and supply
 - Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour
 - Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
 - Reassurance and Community engagement
- 4.2.9 There has been initial consultation with licensed premises owners who are supportive of the proposal. Planning approval will be required and this will include a full consultation process.

The alleygates installation will need to take into account the operational requirements of adjacent business premises, especially as one does have an emergency exit into one of the alleyways. Gate design will, however, accommodate these needs.

4.2.10 Financial Implications

Alleygates installation costs	£12,400
NDC Environmental Security Fund	£ 4,000 (agreed)
Night Time Economy Group	£ 400 (agreed)
Grant requested	£ 8,000

The grant request fulfils the 35% contribution requirement.

Night Time Economy Group will meet all planning fees in respect of this project.

4.2.11 Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and approve a grant of £8,000 towards this project.

The application has the full support and recommendation of The Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team and the Section 17 Officer Group.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

4.3 Summerhill Allotments Security Fencing.

4.3.1 Summerhill Allotments site, comprising of 56 plots of which most are utilised, is situated at the end of Summerhill Lane adjacent to Catcote School and in close proximity to Summerhill Centre and Country Park.

4.3.2 Allotment tenants, most of whom live in the Rift House area, have raised concerns around break-ins, damage and vandalism with the Rift House NAP Forum, which comprises residents, Ward Councillors, Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) officers and service providers. The Forum subsequently identified the need for improved security measures to the perimeter and prioritised this within the Environment & Housing theme of the Rift House NAP.

4.3.3 The site perimeter does benefit to two sides by existing palisade fencing with Catcote Road School. This is regarded as secure and effective. However the remaining two sides are wood lathe, generally are not in a good state of repair and do not afford a meaningful deterrent to unauthorised entry.

4.3.4 Crime and anti-social behaviour statistics evidence that there have been a few incidents of theft and criminal damage. However there is a strong suspicion that not all incidents are reported to Police and/or Hartlepool Borough Council.

- 4.3.5 An assessment of site security has been undertaken by HBC officers and Police Crime Prevention officers. The consensus is that palisade or mesh fencing, in replacement of existing wood, would not only deter future unauthorised entry but also increase external visibility into the site so affording an additional crime prevention measure. The proposal, therefore, is to replace existing wood fencing by 2.4 metre high metal palisade fencing which has proven to be an effective deterrent when installed elsewhere.
- 4.3.6 Summerhill tenants have formed their own Allotment Association. Their strategy includes site safety and security although replacement of the periphery fencing is not included given the cost constraints. Nevertheless there is a strong will by the Association to support and progress affordable measures to safeguard their site activities.
- 4.3.7 Allotment site security is an issue of concern to Safer Hartlepool Partnership and there is currently a group, initiated by Cleveland Police, which is looking at sites Hartlepool wide. A number of initiatives are already being progressed such as property identity marking and additional security to sheds and other buildings. However secure periphery fencing will remain the prime measure to minimising crime and anti-social behaviour incidents within Hartlepool allotment sites.
- 4.3.8 The project will contribute to the following Community Safety strategic objectives within the grants scheme:
- Acquisitive crime
 - Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting
 - Preventing and reducing offending, re-offending and the risk of offending
 - Reassurance and Community engagement
- 4.3.9 The proposal will require planning approval prior to any new fence erection. It is not anticipated that any objections would arise.

4.3.10 Financial implications

Installation	£26,000
Rift House NAP Forum	£5,000 (agreed)
HBC Minor Works	£3,350 (agreed)
HBC Parks & Countryside	£750 (agreed)
Grant requested	£16,900

The grant request fulfils the 35% contribution requirement.

All future revenue costs will be met from HBC mainstream budgets although the Allotment Association will support wherever possible.

4.3.11 Recommendation

Members are asked to consider a grant of £16,900 towards this project.

The application has the support of the Section 17 Officer Group. HBC Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team are supportive within the delivery of a town-wide allotment security programme, although there may be other locations which could have as high a priority. However the desire of the Rift House Forum to financially support delivery of this project, whilst they have available funding, is a positive factor to early progression of the project.

Any grant approval will be subject to post completion review and appraisal.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members are requested to consider and/or approve grant awards to three projects totalling no more than £31,660.

**CONTACT OFFICER: Brian Neale,
Community Safety Manager.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Individual grant application papers.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

2 November, 2010



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: COMMUNITY POOL 2010/2011 – ROUND 4

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise and seek approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisations from the Community Pool for 2010/2011 – Round 4.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The Community Pool budget for the 2010/2011 financial year has been set at £494,658. Members have approved the accrual of the balance of the 2009/2010 Community Pool budget amounting to £50,814 amounting to a total of £545,472 available for 2010/2011. At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 1st March 2010 (Round 1) Members approved awards of £453,370 including the Directed Lettings allocation for 2010/2011.

Applications from Manor Residents Association and Radio Hartlepool were deferred pending further information. In Round 2 the application from Manor Residents Association was deferred again because information was still being gathered to support the application. The application from Radio Hartlepool was deferred again at the request of the Grants Committee to allow further consideration of the application. An application from Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre (BVCS&YC) could not be considered because two members of the committee declared a prejudicial interest in the application and requested that consideration of this application be referred to Cabinet and subsequently Culture Leisure and Tourism Portfolio where it was approved on the 19th October 2010.

At the Round 3 meeting members approved an award of £2,500 for Hartlepool Sports Council.

Three applications for funding are being presented in Round 4. Applications from Voluntary Wheels, Hartlepool Carers and Radio Hartlepool are being recommended for approval. Details of these applications can be found in section 4.4 in the body of the report. Officers are recommending that the

application from Manor Residents Association is deferred until the group have provided the information necessary to process their application including their annual report and accounts.

As it has been recommended that the application from Manor Residents Association should be deferred and as it has become increasingly apparent that some groups may require consideration of further in-year support to safeguard their future, a balance of funding remains to be committed at a later meeting of the Grants Committee.

3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER(S)

The Grants Committee is responsible for determining the level of grant awards from the Community Pool to the voluntary sector.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non-key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Grants Committee to determine awards at meeting, 2nd, November 2010.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

Members are requested to approve/note:-

1. Grant aid of £5,000 to Voluntary Wheels as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of this report.
2. Grant aid of £10,555 to Hartlepool Carers as detailed in paragraph 4.5 of this report.
3. Grant aid of £2,500 to Radio Hartlepool as detailed in paragraph 4.6 of this report.
4. Any allocation of grant aid to groups known to be experiencing financial difficulties to be released in monthly/quarterly instalments, as appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk.
5. A recommendation to defer the application from Manor Residents Association whilst additional information is gathered.
6. The balance of the Community Pool, £49,070 to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2010/2011 financial year.

Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: COMMUNITY POOL 2010/2011 – ROUND 4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise and seek approval for the level of grant awards to community groups and voluntary organisations from the Community Pool for 2010/2011 – Round 4.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Pool provides financial assistance to support those aspects of the activities of the voluntary/community/not for profit sector that clearly reflect the aspirations of the Council's Community Strategy.
- 2.2 The Council has identified, within the Community Strategy's aims and themes, a number of corporate strategy priorities. The main objective of the Community Pool is to support the activity of strengthening communities. Applications are processed against set criteria, which can be found as **Appendix 1**. Grant aid awarded is generally provided as a contribution towards the core costs of an organisation's operation and in many instances helps to match other funding streams.
- 2.3 The Community Pool budget for the 2010/2011 financial year has been set at £494,658. At a meeting of the Grants Committee on 1st March 2010 Round 1 Members approved awards of £453,370 including the Directed Lettings allocation for 2010/2011. Members also approved the accrual of balance of the 2009/2010 Community Pool budget of £50,814.
- 2.4 In Round 2 an application from Manor Residents Association was deferred again because information is still being gathered to support the application and the group's accounts are not yet available. The application from Radio Hartlepool was deferred again at the request of the Grants Committee to allow further consideration of the application. An application from Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre (BVCS&YC) could not be considered because two members of the committee declared a prejudicial interest in the application and requested that consideration of this application be referred to Cabinet and subsequently Culture Leisure and Tourism Portfolio where it was approved on the 19th October 2010.
- 2.5 In Round 3 members approved an award of £2,500 for Hartlepool Sports Council.

- 2.6 Taking all of this into consideration including approval of the award for Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre, the balance available for distribution in Round 4 is £67,125.

3. CONSIDERATION OF AWARDS

- 3.1 Application to the Community Pool is open to all, however, the majority of the applications for 2010/2011 are from groups that have received grant aid previously and are somewhat **dependent** on financial support from the Council to ensure their sustainability.
- 3.2 Applicants can apply for a one-year revenue grant or a three-year tapering revenue grant and as part of the assessment process, applications are categorised to ensure that financial support is maintained to those groups providing services that complement the Authority's strategic aims and objectives. **Appendix 1** The criteria and guidance notes for applicants provides information for applicants relating to what can be funded and how applications are assessed.
- 3.3 Consideration is given to the group's operational activity with funding provided as a proportion of the core costs and the potential of the group to access other funding in order to achieve a complete financial package for their activities.
- 3.4 Where grant aid has been approved and where it is considered to be appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk, Officers would suggest that Members of the Grants Committee allow Officers to make an informed decision about the frequency of payments to grant recipients. Normally grant aid is paid out in 2 instalments, but this could be tailored according to the prevailing circumstances of the group to monthly or quarterly payments.

4 GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2010/2011 – Round 4

- 4.1 In Round 2 Members agreed that 2 applications should be deferred to the next meeting of the Grants Committee. At that time Manor Residents Association was not in a position to provide all the information required to support their application and to enable Officers to make an informed recommendation. As Manor Residents are still not able to provide their annual report and accounts Officers are recommending that the application be deferred until this information is provided.
- 4.2 In Round 2 the application from Radio Hartlepool was deferred at the request of the Grants Committee to allow time for further consideration of the application. Officers have worked with Radio Hartlepool to gather additional information to complement their application and are now able to make a final recommendation in relation to their application.

- 4.3 Applications have also been received from Voluntary Wheels and Hartlepool Carer's which are also being presented for Members consideration in Round

4.4. **Voluntary Wheels**

Voluntary Wheels is a community transport scheme which provides a service for 40 voluntary and community sector groups and 400 individuals in Hartlepool. Those that use the service benefit from exposure to new experiences and suffer less from social isolation. Voluntary Wheels was awarded a grant of £6,296 in Round 1 as a contribution towards the salary costs of the Coordinator Driver.

Voluntary Wheels has applied to the Community Pool for additional support for this financial year towards the salary costs of the Coordinator Driver. This is as a result of the group incurring substantial additional maintenance costs, for the mini-bus due to a major mechanical breakdown of the vehicle. Any earned income that the group has raised through charging for the service has been utilised to pay for the repair of the vehicle which has left the group with a shortfall in funding to cover the salary costs of the Coordinator Trainer, who is the only paid member of staff. Earned income has also reduced because the vehicle has been out of service while the repairs were being carried out therefore compounding the group's financial pressures.

Voluntary Wheels has applied for additional in year support of £5,000 towards an estimated financial shortfall of £8,816. Applications to charitable trusts will be made for the remainder of the shortfall to enable the group to provide the service till the end of the financial year. If additional funding is not approved from the Community Pool and/or funding is not secured from charitable trusts the community transport scheme could cease to operate at the end of December 2010. This would be a great loss to disabled people/groups preventing them from accessing services that otherwise they could not afford or reach. The loss of the service would also impact on those people who volunteer to gain valuable experience relevant to the jobs market, through driving, along with a MIDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) certificate.

Officers are recommending approval of an additional award of £5,000 for Voluntary Wheels as a contribution towards the salary costs of the Coordinator Trainers post.

4.5 **Hartlepool Carers**

Hartlepool Carers exists to improve the quality of life of carers in Hartlepool and the surrounding area through the provision of advice, information and services and by raising awareness of carer's issues in the community.

Hartlepool Carers offers a range of services for carers including a full carer's assessment service, working closely with HBC Social Care teams to provide this service. The group works to raise awareness of carer's issues locally, regionally and nationally, offers carers awareness training to local health and

social care professionals and providers, offers emotional support to individuals and small groups of carers and professional specialist counselling for those carers in need of it. Complementary therapies are offered including relaxation workshops, meditation and Reiki etc. The group also offers social activities to help reduce a carer's loneliness and isolation and drop-in sessions at various locations throughout the town. Hartlepool Carer's offers a replica service and more for any young carer in Hartlepool aged over 7 and under 18 years.

At present Hartlepool Carers have 11 paid members of staff and over 100 volunteers offering services town-wide and throughout the surrounding villages. Hartlepool Carers has applied to the Community Pool for a one year grant of £31,664 which would represent a 50% contribution towards the salary costs of a Manager and an Administrator. Hartlepool Carers has not been funded from the Community Pool previously.

As funding can only be approved for the current financial year any award could only be made for the remaining 5 months of the financial year. Therefore Officers are recommending that a grant of £10,555 be approved which equates to a 40% contribution to the salary costs of a Manager and an Administrator for the remainder of the financial year. If funding from the Community Pool was approved it would assist Hartlepool Carers to sustain the services it provides for in excess of 560 adult carers and 125 young carers.

Officers are recommending approval of a grant of £10,555 for Hartlepool Carers as a contribution towards the salary costs of a Manager and an Administrator.

4.6 **Radio Hartlepool**

Radio Hartlepool is the trading name of Hartlepool Community Broadcasting Ltd. It is a not for profit company that has charitable aims and objectives that focuses programmes on the voluntary and community sector of Hartlepool. Radio Hartlepool's five year Community Broadcasting Licence commenced in October of 2008.

The station provides a full time local and community radio service for the population of Hartlepool not only by playing a mix of popular music, but also by providing a bespoke local news service, national and international news service, local travel updates, a local 'What's on Guide', a voice for local community organisations with support for local charities and support for local talent including musicians and people involved with the arts. Radio Hartlepool also provides employment and volunteering opportunities for local people.

Radio Hartlepool has applied to the Community Pool for a three year tapered award of £20,000 as a contribution towards the salary costs of the Station Manager's post. The group has not had an award from the Community Pool before so therefore has no track record of managing funding from the Community Pool.

The application from Radio Hartlepool was deferred in Round 1 and Round 2 because the group were unable to provide specific information including a business plan, audited accounts and information relating to applications to other funders for core costs to match any funding approved from the Community Pool. Also the group had not made any progress regarding the implementation of a quality mark.

Since Radio Hartlepool's application was considered in Round 2 the group have submitted a three year business plan for the period 2010 - 2013 and audited accounts for financial year ending March 2010. However, some clarification is still needed in respect of certain aspects of the business plan. Officers are working with the group to obtain a clear and transparent understanding of the group's operation and current financial situation.

After meeting with representatives from Radio Hartlepool to discuss the group's application to the Community Pool and support from HBC, financial and otherwise, it has become apparent that other elements of support would be welcomed by the group. Consideration has been given to other elements of support including financial support to enable Radio Hartlepool to obtain a quality mark (PQASSO being the groups preferred option) and financial support to cover the costs of Radio Hartlepool's inclusion in the council's Viewpoint survey. Both elements of support will assist Radio Hartlepool in the long term with the generation of income through advertising and sponsorship which is more likely to lead to self sustainability and will avoid a dependence on grant funding.

After careful consideration of the application from Radio Hartlepool, as resources are limited, and as Radio Hartlepool has not had an award from the Community Pool previously a cautious approach has been taken by Officers in relation to the amount of funding recommended for approval at this time. Officers are therefore recommending that an award of up to £2,500 is approved to cover the costs of the group achieving the PQASSO quality mark, the costs of which include £1,055 for the assessment and an unspecified amount for the assessor's expenses. Also, to cover the costs of up to two pages in HBC's Viewpoint survey which will facilitate the collection of information in relation to the listenership of Radio Hartlepool.

Any outside organisation wishing to be included in the Viewpoint survey is asked to contribute £400 per page taken up in the survey. To allow Radio Hartlepool to be included in the survey Officers are suggesting that funding is approved from the Community Pool to cover these costs up to a maximum of £800.

Officers are therefore recommending approval of a grant of up to £2,500 for Radio Hartlepool to cover the costs of Radio Hartlepool achieving the PQASSO quality mark and the inclusion of Radio Hartlepool in the Viewpoint survey.

4.7 Applications that are being deferred pending further information

4.7.1 **Manor Residents Association**

Officers are recommending that the application from Manor Residents Association is deferred again. The application was deferred in Round 1 and Round 2 because the group has been unable to provide their annual accounts and annual report for 2008/2009 because their annual general meeting was delayed to bring it into line with the financial year. However, Officers are still gathering information to support this application and are recommending that this application be deferred again. Unless the appropriate financial information is forthcoming it is increasingly likely that no grant is to be considered for 2010/2011.

Officers are recommending that the application from Manor Residents Association is deferred.

5 **CONCLUSION**

5.1 In Round 4 of the 2010/2011 financial year, three applications have been made by community groups and voluntary organisations that provide services in Hartlepool. The value of the applications totals £56,664 the available budget is £67,125.

5.2 To summarise the financial position, taking into consideration the recommendations included in this report.

Community Pool budget 2010/2011,	£494,658
Accrual of balance of 2009/2010 Community Pool	£50,814
Total budget available for distribution 2010/2011	£545,472
Total recommendations Rounds 1, 2 & 3 (including BVCS&YC)	£478,347
Total available for distribution in Round 4	£67,125
TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS ROUND 4	£18,055

5.3 Should Members approve the recommendations as detailed in the report the balance remaining to be committed at a later date will be £49,070.

6 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are requested to approve/note:-

1. Grant aid of £5,000 to Voluntary Wheels as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of this report.
2. Grant aid of £10,555 to Hartlepool Carers as detailed in paragraph 4.5 of this report.
3. Grant aid of £2,500 to Radio Hartlepool as detailed in paragraph 4.6 of this report.

4. Any allocation of grant aid to groups known to be experiencing financial difficulties to be released in monthly/quarterly instalments, as appropriate, in order to safeguard the Council's investment and minimise risk.
5. A recommendation to defer the application from Manor Residents Association whilst additional information is gathered.
6. The balance of the Community Pool, £49,070 to be considered for allocation against bids at future meetings within the 2010/2011 financial year.

CONTACT OFFICER: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Child & Adult Services)

Background Papers

Applications to the Community Pool 2010/2011.



HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY POOL 2010/2011

CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

The main aim of the Community Pool is to support those aspects of the activities of the voluntary/ community/not for profit sector that clearly reflect the aspirations of the Council's Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

HARTLEPOOL AMBITION

COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY 2008-2020

Within the main strategic document, there are 8 aims and themes, which are clearly set out as priorities:-

- Jobs and the Economy
- Life Long Learning and Skills
- Health Care
- Community Safety
- Environment
- Housing
- Culture and Leisure
- Strengthening the Communities

CORPORATE STRATEGY

The Council has identified within the Community Strategy's aims and themes a number of corporate strategy priorities. The main objective of the Community Pool is to support the activity of strengthening communities.

Community Pool resources are targeted to vulnerable sectors of the community and to those organisations delivering effective and appropriate services that complement the Authority's strategic aims, "to empower individuals, groups and communities and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives".

Within the Strengthening Communities theme are a number of objectives which groups funded from the Community Pool can collaborate with the Council to achieve its corporate objectives:-

- To empower local people to take a greater role in the planning and delivery of services and strategies that affect their individual lives, their local neighbourhood and the wider community.
- To increase opportunities for everyone to participate in consultation, especially "hard to reach" groups and those communities affected.
- To improve the accessibility of services and information ensuring that providers address the varied needs and requirements of the whole community.
- To fully value the voluntary and community sector and to support them to secure their long-term future through contracted service delivery, promoting volunteering and the agreement of longer term funding settlements.
- To ensure Hartlepool is a cohesive community where there is a sense of belonging for all and where people of different backgrounds, circumstances and generations are able to get along free from discrimination and harassment.

In order to identify the most disadvantaged communities for the purposes of assessing applications to the Community Pool, the rankings found in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 will be used to ascertain the nature of deprivation in Hartlepool.

The following ward is in the top **1%** of deprived wards nationally: **Stranton**.

The following wards are in the top **5%** of deprived wards nationally: **Owton, Dyke House, Brus, St Hilda**.

The following wards are in the top 10% of deprived wards nationally: **Grange, Rift House.**

Groups targeting areas of greatest disadvantage in the town will receive a higher priority for funding.

Weightings will be applied to grant applications depending on the location of the applicant organisation and the area they serve.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

The Community Pool funding categories are as follows:-

(i) PROVIDERS OF SERVICES THAT ARE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. This includes:-

Those groups/organisations that provide services to support disadvantaged individuals. Groups may require specialist expertise, e.g. Legal advice, debt counselling, and self-improvement opportunities.

Applications from those groups providing services that directly complement the services provided by the local authority and are considered strategically important will receive priority particularly those who provide:-

- Legal advice and guidance.
- Income generation, credit union support and debt counselling.
- Voluntary sector infrastructure support: accreditation, management, fundraising.
- Counselling services.

(ii) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES. This includes:-

those groups which support the development of community capacity, including the formation of tenants and residents groups, and seek to improve interaction between local residents and statutory service providers, including local partnerships and networks and groups working proactively to facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged sectors, to encourage them on to the first step and then signpost them onto provision elsewhere, if necessary, providing support and training to encourage self help.

Applications from local community groups, particularly those who actively provide:-

- Advocacy in relation to issues affecting the voluntary sector.
- Support to strengthen voluntary sector infrastructure; accreditation, management.
- Support with fundraising.
- Support to volunteers.
- Development of capacity building projects/activities.

(iii) ESTABLISHED GROUPS WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN SUPPORTED FROM THE COMMUNITY POOL

Groups who are considered to be established i.e. who have been fully constituted for in excess of 2 years, who have not been awarded grant aid from the Community Pool previously can apply for financial support if they are meeting the aims and objectives of the Community Pool.

(iv) OTHER ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS. This includes:-

All applications, which do not fall into the other 3 categories, but provide valuable services with measurable outcomes for the benefit of Hartlepool residents living in the most disadvantaged wards, can be considered for funding.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY POOL

Funding is offered on a two-tier system.

➤ 3 YEAR REVENUE TAPERED GRANT

Groups can apply for a 3 year tapered funding agreement in principle subject to budgetary availability. In the second and third years of the agreement, grant recipients will be afforded, in principle, 75% and then 50% of the award made in Year 1. Under this scheme, groups cannot apply for funding from the Community Pool in year 4.

➤ 1 YEAR REVENUE TAPERED GRANT

1 year funding with applications being processed alongside all others in subsequent years.

Grant aid will only be approved for revenue funding to support organisational running costs. A funding formula will be applied with the main priority being the staffing costs of a group. Key posts within an organisation, as identified by the Community Resources Manager, can be supported with a percentage of salary costs.

Applicants should note that:-

Capital works will not be supported, i.e.

New applications for initiatives in areas currently benefiting from regeneration initiative funding will receive a lower priority.

Play initiatives will receive a lower priority because of the alternative funding sources e.g. Play Opportunities Pool.

There is no upper limit in relation to the amount applied for from the Community Pool, but applications for less than £5,000 will not be considered from the Community Pool but will be signposted to other funders.

MONITORING OF GRANT AID

All grant aid is managed through a funding agreement, which includes the terms and conditions, under which grant aid has been awarded.

The spend and the outputs/benefits relating to the grant will be monitored and if it is found that grant aid has not been spent appropriately or outputs/benefits not achieved then measures may be taken to reclaim the grant.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Groups applying to the Community Pool will be given the opportunity to appeal against a decision made by the Grants Committee in respect of their application for funding. An appeal must be made in writing, as it will be presented to the Grants Committee for their consideration.